Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Original Claims 1-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (new). A method for obtaining, on the basis of a characteristic map, a value for at least one control parameter of an installation, the method which comprises:

defining support points for the control parameter, each of the support points providing a value for the control parameter, across a range of operational parameters within a characteristic map in accordance with operational parameters of the installation;

dividing the range of operational parameters covered in the characteristic map into first and second subdomains each comprising a plurality of the support points; and

obtaining a value for the control parameter by extrapolating when a boundary of the first subdomain is reached before the value for the control parameter is obtained by accessing support points of the second subdomain.

Claim 9 (new). The method according to claim 8, which comprises obtaining values for a control parameter of an internal combustion engine.

Claim 10 (new). The method according to claim 8, which comprises, when a given distance is reached from a last support point of the first subdomain, obtaining the value by extrapolating from support points of the second subdomain.

Claim 11 (new). The method according to claim 8, which comprises allocating a discrete operating mode of the installation to each subdomain.

Claim 12 (new). The method according to claim 11, wherein the installation is an internal combustion engine having fuel injected into combustion chambers, and the method comprises defining the discrete operating modes as differing in a number of injections per work cycle.

Claim 13 (new). The method according to claim 12, wherein the characteristic map contains values of injection parameters in dependence on a speed and a load of the internal combustion engine.

Claim 14 (new). The method according to claim 13, wherein the injection parameters include at least one of an injection quantity and an injection angle.

Claim 15 (new). The method according to claim 11, which comprises changing an operating mode when a given operating state is reached.